

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for conducting on-line commerce, comprising:

means for simultaneously conducting a search for a plurality of items on a

5 plurality of data sources, wherein a user selectively specifies the plurality of items to be searched.

2. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the means are implemented using software.

10 3. The system according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of data sources is a website.

15 4. The system according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of data sources is a database.

5. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the user selectively specifies at least one of the plurality of data sources to be searched.

20 6. The system according to Claim 2, wherein the software is selectively programmable to search at least one default data source.

7. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the results of the search are simultaneously displayed on a display device for viewing by the user, the results providing information regarding the plurality of items searched.

5 8. The system according to Claim 7, wherein the results of the search are displayed in a plurality of lists, each one of the plurality of lists displaying search results from a different one of the plurality of data sources searched.

10 9. The system according to Claim 7, wherein after the search is completed, the user can simultaneously purchase one or more of the plurality of items.

15 10. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the user can prioritize the order in which certain ones of the plurality of data sources are to be searched.

11. The system according to Claim 7, wherein the user can specify criteria by which the results of the search are displayed.

20 12. The system according to Claim 6, wherein the user can exclude the at least one selectively programmed data source from being searched.

13. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the means prompts the user to specify information regarding the plurality of items to be searched.

14. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the means prompts the user to select certain ones of the plurality of items to be included in the search.

15. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the means prompts the user to exclude certain ones of the plurality of items from being included in the search.

16. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the means enables a user to simultaneously search for different types of items.

17. The system according to Claim 8, wherein if a particular one of the plurality of data sources that was searched does not have a particular one of the plurality of items available for sale, the list for that particular data source indicates if any of the other plurality of data sources has the item available for sale.